

QA:N/A



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To Marcy_Westover@URSCorp.com
cc
bcc

07/16/2007 01:39 PM

Subject Re: trip report

History:

 This message has been replied to.

Here is the April 06 trip report with information on flycatcher habitat



FWS Trip Notes Apr 12 06.doc

Trip Report
Bechtel SAIC and Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS)
April 12, 2006
Caliente, NV

Attended by: Kurt Rautenstrauch and Ron Green (BSC), Christiana Manville (FWS)

The purpose of this trip was to examine habitat for southwestern willow flycatchers along the Caliente alternative and to discuss potential impacts to this endangered species.

We walked sections of Meadow Valley Wash from Clover Creek to Indian Cove and drove up Highway 93 through Meadow Valley to observe riparian habitat.

It was agreed that there is no breeding habitat along or near the Caliente alternative. The small stands of willows and other riparian trees in Meadow Valley Wash south of Indian Cove are marginal habitat for migratory southwestern willow flycatchers. Thus the biological assessment should conclude that the project may affect this species (because some of those trees will have to be removed during construction of bridges and installation of erosion control structures), but that the impacts will be minor. No incidental take provision will be required because all clearing of trees must be conducted outside of the nesting season to comply with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. It is very likely that the FWS will place no restrictions on the design or construction of the Caliente alternative (other than timing of clearing of vegetation) to protect southwestern willow flycatchers.